

PEACE NEWS

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(Dick) Sheppard and
George Lansbury

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WITHOUT COMMENT

"ONE soldier (a repatriated British prisoner of war) told me that when his group was passing through a village recently razed by napalm (petrol-jelly) bombs, the Chinese guards fixed bayonets, apparently to protect them from the hostile North Korean civilians."

"This man was not one of those who had been influenced by Communist indoctrination."

News Chronicle, April 25, 1953.

WOMEN AGAINST WAR

THERE are many resolutions before the Annual Congress of the Women's Cooperative Guild, taking place at Morecambe from May 18 to 21, which deal with the issue of war and peace.

One, standing in the name of ten branches of the Guild, calls for an immediate ceasefire in Korea and the recall of foreign troops. On the atom-bomb, Congress is asked to deplore the expenditure involved and to request that the British Government shall give a lead to the world in banning these hideous and senseless weapons and putting the money thus saved to constructive uses.

An appeal for the abolition of conscription is made in another resolution from three branches.

Racial affairs

Resolutions on Africa also figure largely. One protests against the imposition of the scheme of federation in Central Africa and the repressive policies in Kenya and Malaya.

Remaining resolutions indicate the broad sweep of interest of the Guildswomen. Issues from the domination of America over British policies and the admission of China to UN to expressions of alarm at the suggested re-imposition of flogging and birching and the public sale of toy weapons are contained among them.

Localising the peace

FROM A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE situation in Korea, where the repatriates are undergoing intelligence questioning by the UN Command, is highly confused. In spite of this confusion, however, a picture appears which is both instructive and unedifying.

It has been known for some time that Gen. Clark's HQ regarded the impending return of prisoners with profound and growing apprehension. It was clear that all was not well.

With characteristic cunning and savagery, the Communists appeared to have admitted to treat all the men in their hands with the cruelty which UN propaganda demanded. Instead, they had given them what American circles have been describing as the "buddy-buddy" treatment.

Faced with the results of this duplicity, and the risk that the returning men might have ceased to consider all Red Asians as "gooks" ripe for incineration, UN headquarters has for some time been preparing its defences.

China Lobby's "anti-peace" offensive

The shape of those defences became clear this week in the rigid security veil which has fallen over prisoners' statements, and which has been lifted only to allow the passage of an inflammatory blast about atrocities; this in turn has been synchronised with the expected "anti-peace" offensive from the China Lobby in New York and Washington.

This bears, so far, a very similar stamp to the atrocity campaign launched by Gen. Ridgway's HQ a couple of years ago, in which wholesale massacre of prisoners was alleged (and the reports subsequently discredited).

It is now clear that the troubles of American POWs are unlikely to end with repatriation.

There seems to be good ground for fearing that those who resist attempts of "re-education officers" to secure their signature to suitably inflammatory statements may find repatriation delayed, and the threat of the "booby hatch" tactfully held over recalcitrants.

Truce wrecking

The motives behind this behaviour are not simple. It is possible, but not likely, that the objective is a complete end to the negotiations. The only determined attempt to frustrate a truce once and for all is likely to come from the pensioners of Gen. Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee. It seems probable that Tokyo HQ is now reluctantly to the desirability of at least a signed truce—the correctness of that view may be tested by the time this despatch appears in print.

While, therefore, some truce-wrecking

WE MUST NEGOTIATE — NOW!

The Russian reply to
President Eisenhower
By EMRYS HUGHES, MP

THE Pravda editorial in reply to President Eisenhower's speech should be read carefully by everybody who wants to understand the Russian case.

It shows that the new Russian Government is convinced of the justice of its arguments which are clearly and moderately stated.

It also indicates that Mr. Malenkov is as honest as President Eisenhower in his desire to agree on outstanding questions, end the arms race and direct the manpower and wealth that it now consumes to projects which will raise the standard of life of all the world.

Not only does Pravda show that it has an answer to the West, but it has reprinted President Eisenhower's speech in full so that its Russian readers can understand what the Western case is.

This again shows that the Russian Government is sure of its case and can trust public opinion in Russia to be behind it.

Why then should negotiations between the two worlds not begin afresh?

The Russians cannot be bullied

It is clear that the Russians cannot be bullied into anything in the nature of unconditional surrender. They have their point of view and there is no sign that they are prepared to accept dictated terms from the West.

But they are prepared to reason and there is sufficient in the Pravda article to justify the British Government in agreeing to new negotiations on the basis that another world war would settle nothing but would be a calamity for the whole world and that we are justified in entering upon negotiations



EMRYS HUGHES, MP.

Re-elected Joint Treasurer of the Peace Pledge Union at its Annual General Meeting on Saturday last.

all over again. However long and drawn out they may be.

The German problem

One of the outstanding causes of the tension is the struggle over Germany.

On this issue the Pravda article says:

"Is it not clear that the solution of the German problem demands consideration of the interests of all her neighbours, of the interest of strengthening peace in Europe and in the first place the consideration of the national aspirations of the German people."

"President Eisenhower's speech does not contain any basis for the solution of this problem. He has not reckoned with the existence of the Potsdam Agreement of the Four Powers concerned with the German problem."

"The former U.S. Government acted like that. But if one is to assume the necessity to solve positively the German problem is sensible, and to solve it in the spirit of strengthening peace in Europe—for which the Soviet Union has been consistently striving—one must not forget the aforesaid important international agreements which bear the signature of both our countries and also Great Britain and France."

"If the Anglo-American bloc does not take this fact into account and continues in the old road, making national unification of Germany impossible, and converting the western part into a military base in which power will be in the hands of men bent on revenge—then a fatal mistake will have been made, first of all in respect of the German people. At the same time, such a situation would be against the interests of all peace-loving countries in Europe and against entire progressive mankind."

Now all this is substantially true and we have to consider how all the elaborate NATO plans for new bases in Western Europe appear as seen through Russian eyes.

Europe since Potsdam

We are committed by the Potsdam Agreement but much has happened in Europe since then. The conditions that prevailed when the Potsdam Agreement was signed no longer exist.

And the time has come for a new agreement based on the assumption that Germany can no longer be looked upon as a country which has to be perpetually occupied by the victors of the Second World War.

Germany should be independent, neutral, disarmed, and that is the only way to ensure that she will not again emerge as a great military power to be feared both by Russia and the eastern countries and by France and Britain too.

Is that not what the great majority of Germans desire? How many of them are really enthusiastic about Dr. Adenauer's agreement with the West for a German rearmament which will put the successors of the Nazis in power again?

The Powers must meet again

The time has come when we must all realise that a rearmed Germany would be

Continued on page 6

PROTECT US
FROM
FEDERATION
116 Chiefs petition
Queen Elizabeth

SIGNED by 116 Northern Rhodesian African Chiefs and five councillors, a petition has been presented to the Queen in the following terms:

"We, the African Chiefs of Northern Rhodesia petition Your Majesty not to weaken the protection given us since the time of Her Majesty Queen Victoria."

"The Scheme of Central African Federation puts in danger your power to protect us. We need your protection until there is a Government in this country in which we shall feel safe without your protection."

"We can see that the Europeans are trying to bring us under the same domination as our brother Africans in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa; and to hold us there for ever as cheap labourers without hope of progress."

"We cannot accept this for our children and beg you to help us so that we shall never have to turn for help to anyone else, but only to God and to you Our Queen."

Preparations for
non-violent resistance
In Central Africa

THE President of the Nyasaland African Congress, J. R. N. Chinyambo, has signed a statement on the non-violent movement against Federation which calls on the British people to avert the catastrophe which will befall both white and black in Central Africa if federation is imposed.

The following is the full text of the statement:

"Whereas it has become obvious that, in spite of solid African opposition to Federation with the Colony of Southern Rhodesia whose policy is diametrically opposed to that of the Colonial Office, and whereas Government intends to impose it upon us against our expressed wishes; and whereas Government has ignored the objection of our delegations to London; therefore, Congress in conjunction with the Chiefs desire to declare its policy of non-violent campaign and non-co-operation with the Government until such time as the Federal Scheme shall have been withdrawn."

"For the proper conduct of this campaign, Nyasaland Chiefs and Congress leaders have set up a Supreme Council to direct their course of activities."

"We appeal to all liberal-minded people of the world to oppose the said Federal scheme which constitutes a breach of faith with the African people and endangers harmonious race relations in Central Africa."

"Congress further desires to emphasise the incompatibility of the intended imposition of the Federal Scheme with Article 73 of the United Nations Charter of which Britain is a signatory."

"We believe the scheme to be unchristian and immoral, aiming at the domination of the minority European over the overwhelming indigenous inhabitants whose aim is to attain democratic self-government within the British Commonwealth of Nations in accordance with the declared British Colonial Policy."

"We thus call upon the British politicians and people to avert the pending catastrophe which will befall white and black inhabitants of the Central African territories in the event of the imposition of the Federal scheme."

Michael Scott in Nyasaland
— page three

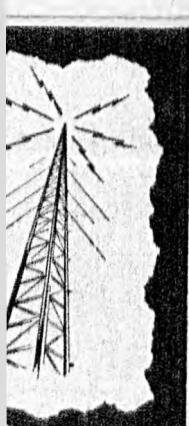
Churches still support call-up

The British Council of Churches' meeting at Birmingham last week rejected a motion put to the meeting by the Society of Friends which urged the Government to end conscription. The motion was turned down by 25 votes to twelve.

Mr. George Sutherland executive member of the Society of Friends in support of the motion said that the moral arguments against conscription were as strong as ever. These arguments would be valid even if conscription prevented war, which it did not.

Compulsory military training taught boys an attitude to evil and aggression which was "the exact opposite to the teaching of Christ."

The Dean of Chichester in moving the rejection of the motion said conscription had saved half Europe from aggression.



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PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
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1st May, 1953

THE DISCUSSION HAS OPENED

WHATEVER may be found to be worthy of further exploration as possible hints of concessions in President Eisenhower's speech and the careful and elaborate reply published in the Russian press, it is now quite clear that a profound change has come over the international situation.

The greatest danger that we may relapse into cold war is to be found in an excessively suspicious attitude in the West, combined with the manoeuvres of the American war party.

In the first place the tone of the commentary published in Pravda and Izvestia is just as different from earlier commentaries of the kind, and from the fulminations of Mr. Vyshinsky at UN under the Stalin regime, as President Eisenhower's pronouncement is different in tone from the declarations of John Foster Dulles. Neither may make any substantial concessions to the point of view of the other (although there may even be hints of these) but they are both sober and responsible statements avoiding in their phrasing any danger of exacerbating relations.



That is a very great gain, but in our view it is not the greatest. On April 17 the Russian press published a summary of President Eisenhower's address, an account quite as adequate as the greater part of the British press gives to statements of this kind, but still only a summary. On the day the Russian commentary was published the complete text of the Eisenhower speech was also published.

The magnitude of the change here should not be minimised. Nothing like this could have happened a year ago. In all probability the Eisenhower pronouncement would have been played down, and the vicious implications of the Dulles approach would have been generously displayed. This would have provided the basis for an outpouring of righteous indignation and hate against America.

This change means that not only is the Russian Government prepared to discuss but, much more important, it is ready to have the Russian people informed on the matters that are to come under discussion, and it is ready to do this by providing them with the best and not the worst statement of the Western case.



It is urged that there must be calculation in all this. Of course there is calculation. Is there no calculation in the West? One cannot take up a newspaper without finding the diplomatic correspondents setting out elaborate estimates of how matters can be handled to put the Eastern posture on any given issue in a bad light and the Western in a good light. The threat over the world today is caused partly by the fact that we are in danger of rejecting the possibility of good relationships by insisting that there may be calculated considerations behind any plans proposed to make them possible. The most important calculation that is in danger of being lost sight of in these exercises in subtlety is that a new world war will be an atomic war and will bring for all the destruction of the point of life worth having. This is the point of the Archbishop of Canterbury's appeal to which we are glad to draw attention on this page.



After years of waiting then, genuine discussion is opened. We must not expect too much from the first exchanges. We hope that as it develops the Russian Government among other things, will respond to President Eisenhower's reference to the possibility of turning resources that will be released by a relaxation of tension and a beginning in disarmament to the assistance of the under-developed countries of the world.

We hope the Soviet Government will not stand aloof from proposals for co-operation on these lines. It is true that this kind of development is the only thing that is likely to save the West from crashing into economic disaster, and it may be a temptation to Russia to hope for this.

Nevertheless, the idea that there can be co-existence between two systems does not mean that we do not have to live in one world. The other way for the West to avoid economic disaster, as the more callous of the American industrialists are already indicating, is by continuing the risk of the disaster of war. We hope that both the East and the West will be ready to face the practical consequences of the new approach.

The Horrors of Peace

A TRUCE in Korea will bring staggering problems for the West:

The Peking Government will demand a place in the United Nations; Formosa will cause trouble among the allies;

The Indo-Chinese situation will become more difficult;

Japan will have serious economic trouble to meet because of the cessation of U.S. spending for the Korean war, will insist on trade with China, and will require heavy U.S. subsidies;

The entire free world will be in danger of economic collapse;

A truce in Europe following a Korean settlement may increase the difficulties in unifying and arming the West;

U.S. military and economic aid may have to suffer a bigger cut by Congress, and it is improbable that increasing trade will compensate for declining aid.

The above is not our own exercise in crying "Woe, woe"; it is a faithful paraphrase (only avoiding such phraseology as would mark it as American) of the American journal Business Week welcoming the prospect of an end to the Korean war.

Business Week is not alone in its gloomy outlook on the prospect of peace.

Disarmament can't happen

Mr. R. G. Follis, Chairman of the Standard Oil Company of California has sounded a warning according to the Wall Street Journal (14.4.53):

"That if this country would suddenly gain confidence in Russia and join in a disarmament programme, the impact on the oil industry and on the whole economy would be terrific."

Mr. Follis, however, resolutely refused to let pessimism get the upper hand, for he added:

"It would be hard for me to believe such a thing could happen."

Michael Hoffman, in the New York Times (14.4.53) remarks:

"In a few short weeks, Russia . . . has done more to produce adverse economic repercussions in the Western world than have all Russia's threats, agitation and conspiracies in the previous post-war period."

"Economists can only repeat earlier warnings that real relaxation of international tension would find the West in serious and perhaps fatal economic condition."

"Thanks to the bewilderment about Soviet intentions," says C. L. Sulzberger in the New York Times (15.4.53) "it looks as if the oft-delayed project to re-militarise Germany in a European Army is going to be postponed again. Therefore, Allied planners will not be able to get that potential cause of strength started this year."

"Already quietly in the past few weeks," says Barrett McGurn in the New York Herald Tribune (20.4.53) "the permanent staff of NATO has made a survey of anti-Americanism in Europe as the basis for proposals to each NATO government on the best means on controlling it."

Over to you, Sir Winston!

WHAT a disastrous picture. Perhaps we had better not permit peace in Korea!

On the other hand if peace is what we want the British people had better encourage their Government to express itself very clearly and firmly.

There are not a few powerful people in the USA who would regard the continued destruction of the Korean people and their land as a reasonable price to pay for their own continued prosperity, and would not be averse to risking a world war for the same end.

We do not minimise the great improvement in tone and temper to be found in President Eisenhower's speech; nevertheless the proposals it contained were only explicit regarding conciliatory moves that were expected from the Communist States.

They avoided any clear indications of

Leaves from a notebook . . .

I HAVE had occasion before to praise the Church of England Newspaper for plain speaking on some of the major issues of the day. Hera is another quotation which deserves a place in this column. It comes from the issue dated February 20, 1953:

"Newspapers and radio (use) the word 'Communists' to describe everybody from the East China Sea to the Elbe as though there were no difference between them."

"It is patently absurd to report that 'so many Communists were killed' in Korea when in fact the soldiers are probably conscripted. One might as well describe all National Service men as Conservatives because Churchill is Prime Minister."

NINE MILLION LEAFLETS!

A BOUQUET to The People for clearly stating the aims of The Non-Violent Resistance Group when reporting the Harwell demonstration in the West of England edition on April 19.

A report of the counter-demonstration by Harwell apprentices came under the heading "A'om boys wanted to squirt the Pacifists" then came the following:

"The Non-violent Resistance Group includes members of the Peace Pledge Union

BEHIND THE NEWS

what might be expected from a similar conciliatory attitude on the part of President Eisenhower's Government.

It is very doubtful whether anything more can be looked for from a Republican Government in America; certainly not while Mr. Dulles remains at the head of the State Department.

It is time Sir Winston Churchill's Government took the initiative.

Behind Eisenhower's speech

MUCH light was thrown on the internal struggle in American politics, which makes that country's leadership of the West so dangerous, by a broadcast by Mr. Joseph Harsch last week.

President Eisenhower had to choose between two entirely different speeches that had been prepared for him.

One of these came from the fact that the utterances of Mr. Dulles are designed to meet.

It was based on the conception of a great campaign to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Stalin's death which it was assumed could throw the Russian Government into chaos, and thus help to overturn the Soviet regime.

The professional diplomats, however, took a more sober view of the situation and they saw that the new conciliatory attitude of the present Russian Government could not be disregarded.

They therefore prepared another speech more responsive to the Russian peace-leagues.

Eisenhower had to choose between these two. He chose the latter.

The strong contradiction between the speech delivered by the President and the violently threatening speech with which Dulles followed it is explained by the need to placate the Republican chauvinists who were outraged by the tone of the Eisenhower speech.

Joseph Harsch remarks that six of the twelve Republicans on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee are in the group behind General Chiang Kai-shek.

These six dined recently with Madame Chiang Kai-shek and drank as a toast the Formosa slogan "Back to the Mainland."

Chief Joseph Dam

In last week's issue we drew attention to what had happened to the British tender for the Chief Joseph Dam as evidence of the pressures of the powerful interests that influence American politics and which are likely to endanger the possibility of peace.

Mr. Harsch's comments strikingly confirm this view. He says that as a matter of party strategy President Eisenhower could not afford to alienate both the war party and the interests that stand for high tariffs at the same time.

Having defied the one he had to make concessions to the other, particularly as they largely consist of the same people.

Charity and Hope

WE are glad that the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed with real hopes both the recent changes in the Soviet attitude and the readiness of Eisenhower and Winston Churchill to reach understanding between East and West. He said:

"For my part, I could wish that politicians and papers were not compelled to talk so much about what all this means or does not mean. Not every comment has been sufficiently tactful, restrained or

Leaves from a notebook . . .

and the Society of Friends. They believe in the Gandhi technique of non-violence.

"Five weeks ago, a demonstration they staged near the Microbiological Research Establishment on Salisbury Plain was filmed by security men."

Totting up the circulation figures for the reports of the two demonstrations we get a combined figure of 9 million copies of The People and the Sunday Dispatch.

Nine million leaflets would have cost the Group about £5,000. These would probably have said a good deal more about non-violence; but there is the thought of putting them through nine million letter boxes.

TITO'S WALK-OFF

I WAS wrong in suggesting that Marshal Tito's "walking-out" on the air display at Duxford was not reported in the British Press.

A reader draws my attention to the News Chronicle report of the incident which followed the crashing of two jets which says that the Marshal left early after he had suggested that the rest of the display be cancelled.

It was, however, the U.S. Time which put the matter most pungently: That Tito walked off and left his hosts to follow.

Peacemaker

genous. . . . In this instance "How all things" is common sense as well as charity."

This is an improvement on a predecessor "Hope for the best but prepare for the worst." But the Archbishop must remember that Charity also suffers long, is easily provoked, thinks no evil, endures all things and never fails.

Much may depend upon whether the interpretation put upon the President's speech by Dulles or Winston Churchill is the correct one.

The former regarded it as an ultimatum the latter rejected that view and spoke the need for patience.

The Pravda article requires the careful consideration since it represents the clearest and most rational statement of Soviet policy for a long time.

Though it makes clear that Russia is not prepared to make any spectacular treats and would not cease to uphold communist cause abroad it does nothing to minimise the value of the concessions previously made or lessen the hope that two sides can reach agreement if both are prepared to do so.

No one, however, could expect Russia to accept conditional surrender to Western terms.

Agreement can only be the result of conciliation on both sides, expressed in a readiness for reasonable compromise and negotiations which will enable both to make necessary concessions in the cause of which each professes to serve.

Though this article can hardly be regarded as an official answer to President Eisenhower, the comments on the various points in his speech are valuable and instructive and indicate clearly that Soviet Government is prepared to "serious and business-like discussions" on outstanding international problems.

The sooner such discussions begin the better, but the West must realise that it is essential that they, too, should indeed what positive contributions they are prepared to make to ensure their success.

Another Hitch in Korea

THE resumption of the armistice talks at Panmunjom was welcomed by all who desire to see first steps taken to secure a peaceful settlement in the Far East.

The renewal of meetings after a break of six months was made possible by the fact that the Chinese and North Korean had moved away from their previous position on the repatriation of all PoWs, had accepted the principle of no forced detention and no forcible repatriation.

Both sides therefore would seem to accept a solution of the deadlock in terms of the handing over of prisoners who desire immediate repatriation to a neutral state for a period within which representatives of their present homeland have free opportunity for explaining their position and removing any of their demands.

It is all the more disappointing that further hitch has occurred because Communists are not prepared to accept U.N. proposal that the neutral country should be Switzerland, and the U.N. gates have stated that 60 days are sufficient time for resolving doubts, the Communists ask for six months.

It will be intolerable if the conflict continues and widens because of a difference on what are, after all, secondary details.

A compromise is possible if the U.N. would accept a maximum of 6 months as an unreasonably long period for men to decide their whole future and if the Communists would accept the proposal that Switzerland should be the neutral country concerned as also reasonable.

West Germany's New Dictator

NO doubt encouraged, if not easily warned, during his recent visit to the USA, Dr. Adenauer is more determined than ever to through the ratification of the Bonn and Paris Agreements.

If the constitution stands in his way much the worse for the constitution.

Dr. Adenauer is not willing to seek the opinion of the Constitutional Court, and though he has not positively stated that he intends to ask the West German President to sign the ratifications at once, he has learned the lesson that he will not let the treaties lie in a drawer.

It is intolerable that America attempt to coerce Western Germany into adopting its policy by a threat to withdraw from Germany if ratification is refused, unpardonable for Adenauer to suggest the refusal of American aid would place the next battlefield in Germany. The reverse is more likely to be true.

Since not only the German constitution is involved but the whole peace of Europe is to be hoped that the President will allow himself to be dictated to by Adenauer, but will insist on the matter being referred to the Constitutional Court.

In the meantime there would seem to be a deadlock on the question of the German contribution to EDC. The member-countries have been asking for £85m. a month. The German Press has put this a fantastic amount and the Ministry of Finance has made a maximum offer of £61m. a month.

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THE GREATEST REVOLUTION

—Dame Sybil Thorndike

"It is a great joy and solace to me to come here, every now and then, to know that I belong to you folk of the Peace Pledge Union, and am closely linked with the work that you are doing," said Dame Sybil Thorndike, after a loud and prolonged ovation at the Peace Pledge Union AGM.

She spoke of the problems facing the world today, problems that seemed to be confusing and even insoluble. At such a time it helped to look back to those fine people who had lived out their lives in accordance with the things which we believed: those deeply good and deeply Christian folk who had faced the same problems: such men as Gandhi, the Saints, and our Lord.

"I know, deep down inside me, that arms and the preparation of arms, is preparation for antagonism; that it is a setback to that thing we are trying to do. For pacifism is the greatest revolution in the world: it is turning upside down all the widely accepted values. We must assert that pacifism courageously, and without compromise."

Speaking of the difference between compromise and tolerance, she said that true tolerance, the tolerance spoken of by Browning in "The Ring and the Book," was not just sitting down and accepting things, it was a part of "that violent dynamic working for good" which should characterise all pacifists.

The seam of violence ran through all lives, but if we wished the green shoots of peace to grow then we had at some time to renounce that violence, to control our antagonisms by means of a deep spiritual sense within ourselves, and learn to look at things in the way of Gandhi. There were failings and aspirations within each individual; only as we controlled our failings could our aspirations be fulfilled.

In the Theatre she found that pacifists were "set on a hill"; they were watched; if they failed to maintain a high moral standard they would be "jumped on like a ton of coals."

Let us remember, she said, that our own country has sometimes been in the wrong, and that we, as individuals, have at some stages been just as cruel as those of other countries (Hear, hear). Let us remember too that people are not our enemies; only things are our enemies, if we keep that in mind we shall give forth light.

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Whites spreading barbarism in Africa — DUTCH PACIFIST

SYBIL MORRISON opening the AGM of the PPU recalled some of the great figures who had served the pacifist movement. She referred particularly to two men, prominent in the PPU, who had died during the year—Corder Catchpool and Sir Hugh Robertson—their deaths, she said, were a tragic loss to the cause of peace. The meeting stood for a moment in silent tribute to their memory.

Absent members who had sent messages of good will included Laurence Housman, Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears, Vera Brittain, and Grace Beaton, Secretary of the War Resisters International.

A letter from Leslie Smith of the National Peace Council spoke of the value placed by his Council on "the unwavering devotion to peace that is constantly shown by the Peace Pledge Union" and testified to the tireless work of the PPU's General Secretary, Stuart Morris, in support of peace and of his contributions to the peace movement as a whole.

A message from Hein van Wijk, Dutch pacifist leader interned in Dachau during World War II, sent cordial greetings from the Dutch war resisters, and offered their backing for the splendid work being done for the emancipation of coloured people in Kenya, South and Central Africa.

In the struggle of white men against coloured, he said, white men make barbarians of themselves and then of their opponents; the pacifist way was the opposite one: the way of non-violent resistance by which we hoped all men would obtain equality and justice.

National Council

The motion to approve an alteration in the Constitution of the National Council to provide for co-option or additional members met with some opposition.

Some delegates believed that the Council was large enough as it stood and that co-option was inconsistent with democratic procedure.

The General Secretary, Stuart Morris, for the motion, argued that co-option was useful at times and would help the work of the Council; it would be valuable to have the right of co-option but this did not necessarily mean it would be exercised.

The motion was carried 155 to 67.

General Secretary's Report

POLICY.

In the discussion on PPU policy Sidney Billson (London Area) moved the reference back of the section on policy, regretting that there had been no apparent consideration given to the war in Malaya.

In this he was joined by Harry Mister (Enfield) who said that he would also like to have seen reference made to the situation in Kenya which he thought should compel the attention of pacifists.

This reference back to Council, instructing them to give consideration to these matters was carried.

WAR ON WANT

David Iain, a young delegate from Wiltshire, complained that such pamphlets as the PPU had issued on this subject were inadequate to the need. He felt there was a call for a more specific statement of the case for development, particularly in the Far East.

Stuart Morris said that a new pamphlet was in preparation which he hoped would



Stuart Morris (left) with Bruno Segre, Italy and Prof. Ude, Austria at a recent Berlin conference.

meet the position. It called for expert treatment and had taken some time in preparation. The Association for World Peace (the body most actively concerned with the special issue of the a/w on Want) were shortly moving into Dick Sheppard House and there was to be closer formal connection with the PPU.

The motion to refer back this section was lost.

SOUTH AFRICA

Hugh Brock (Chairman, London Area) asked that the AGM in adopting this report include a message of support and encouragement to Albert Luthuli, President of African National Congress, congratulating him and his movement on the non-violent resistance campaign against injustice in South Africa.

This was, he added particularly appropriate since Chief Luthuli was himself a member of a fraternal organisation, the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Agreed.

LEGAL ACTIONS

Some members disapproved of the actions against those making mis-statements about

PPU policy but general feeling seemed to approve the steps taken.

Stuart Morris said that relations with the other parties concerned in the actions were friendly.

Another action against the Housewives'



SYBIL MORRISON

League was sub-judice and could not be discussed.

CO-OPERATION

The AGM warmly applauded the Chairman's announcement that the Joint Standing Pacifist Committee was now in being and functioning satisfactorily. The Labour Pacifist Fellowship was shortly to be invited to join the Committee.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

There was some objection to the reference to the Vienna Congress contained in the report "that the Congress would not serve the cause of constructive peacemaking." Certain delegates felt this was unfair.

In support of the report Fred Barton of Manchester, Chairman of the ILP, said that Communist-sponsored peace groups

★ Continued page five

PPU campaign to increase Peace News circulation

LOUD and prolonged applause greeted the Editor, J. Allen Skinner, when he rose to move the adoption of the Peace News Directive.

He said that he wished to express thanks for the ungrudging help he received from those working in the Peace News office at Blackstock Road, from Headquarters at Dick Sheppard House, and from "that great body of people who are in the streets and helped to distribute it throughout the country."

It had made his work on Peace News the most satisfying job of his life.

One unfortunate fact about the circulation of Peace News, said the Editor, was the relatively small number of PPU members who took the paper. To

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